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Attorneys for Plaintiff

# IN THE UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT

## FOR THE DISTRICT OF UTAH

# AIMEE MORRISON, ON BEHALF OF HERSELF AND OTHERS SIMILARLY SITUATED,

Plaintiff,

V.

# CLEAR MANAGEMENT SOLUTIONS,

Defendant.

DECLARATION OF ATTORNEY RYAN L. MCBRIDE IN SUPPORT OF PLAINTIFF'S MOTION FOR CLASS CERTIFICATION

Case No. 1:17-cv-0051-CW-EJF

Judge: Hon. Clark Waddoups

### I, Ryan L. McBride, declare as follows:

- I, Ryan L. McBride, hereby declare under penalty of perjury, and pursuant to the laws of the State of Utah and the United States of America, that the foregoing is true and correct.
   I am over the age of 18 and am fully competent to make this declaration.
- 2. I was admitted to the State Bar of Utah in 2017, the State Bar of Washington in 2016, the State Bar of Florida in 2018, the State Bar of Arizona in 2015, and the State Bar of California in 2014.
- 3. I have been a member in good standing in each of the jurisdictions I am licensed ever

- since being admitted.
- 4. I have litigated cases in courts in California, Washington, Arizona, New York, New Jersey, Florida, Georgia, Louisiana, Massachusetts, and Utah.
- 5. I am the Managing Associate for the Kazerouni Law Group, APC Arizona office and cocounsel of record for Plaintiff Francisco Rodriguez ("Plaintiff") in the above-captioned action against Defendant Cascade Collections, LLC ("Defendant").
- 6. If called as a witness, I would competently testify to the matters herein from personal knowledge. The declaration is based upon my personal knowledge, except where expressly noted otherwise.
- 7. I submit this declaration in support of the Plaintiff's Motion for Class Certification against Defendant. The declaration is based upon my personal knowledge, except where expressly noted otherwise.
- 8. There is no intra-class conflict between the class representative, Plaintiff Francisco Rodriguez, and the other class members. Plaintiff understands the case and why it was brought on his behalf. Further, Plaintiff's attorneys are knowledgeable and experienced in class action litigation and in litigation of FDCPA claims and are free from conflicts with the class.

#### CLASS COUNSEL'S EXPERIENCE

- 9. Kazerouni Law Group, APC seeks to be confirmed as class counsel for purposes of this action.
- 10. I was recently appointed class counsel in the District of Utah for a Fair Debt Collection Practices Act case that was finally approved by Judge Clark Waddoups on June 5, 2020. See Morrison v. Express Recovery Services, Inc. d/b/a Clear Management Solutions, D. UT., 1:17-cv-00051-CW-DAO (class approval for \$20,000).
- 11. I have been licensed to practice law since June 2014. I practice law full time as a private consumer rights plaintiff's attorney and am now the Managing Associate of the Arizona

- office for Kazerouni Law Group, APC. My primary responsibilities include managing the Arizona office including and handling all attorney responsibilities within Arizona.
- 12. I regularly manage and supervise other associates and staff within our firm, assigning projects and giving advice.
- 13. I was primarily responsible for opening our office in Phoenix, Arizona, and developing this location's caseload.
- 14. Kazerouni Law Group Arizona branch's practice is almost exclusively devoted to consumer rights and the litigation of Federal Fair Debt Collection Practices Act and Fair Credit Reporting Act matters.
- 15. I have been approved as class counsel in several class actions including one in this district brought pursuant to the Fair Debt Collection Practices Act, *Morrison v. Express Recovery Services, Inc. d/b/a Clear Management Solutions*, D. UT., 1:17-cv-00051-CW-DAO (class approval for \$20,000).
- 16. I have also been approved as class counsel in a class action brought pursuant to another consumer protection statute, the Fair Credit Reporting Act, *Pastor v. Bank of America*, N.D.C.A., 15-cv-03831-VC (preliminary class approval for \$1,645,000). My practice involves significant class action litigation and I am or have been counsel in significant national class actions including, but not limited to class actions against Bank of America, Crown Asset Management, LLC and Lexington Law Firm to mention a few.
- 17. I have undergone broad training in the area of consumer rights. The following is a list of recent training conferences:
  - Three-day National Consumer Law Center: Fair Credit Reporting Act Training Conference, in Las Vegas, NV - May 2015;
  - Four-day National Consumer Law Center Conference; San Antonio, TX November,
     2015;
  - Three-day Mass Torts Made Perfect Conference; Las Vegas, Nevada April 2019.

- Three-day Fair Credit Reporting Act Conference; Long Beach, CA May 2019.
- 18. I have been requested to make an appearance on ABC Channel 15 news regarding the recent Volkswagen scandal and class action settlement.
- 19. I was a consumer rights expert at the ABC Channel 15 news "Let Joe Know" event in 2016 and 2017.
- 20. I am a member in good standing of the following local and national associations:
  - a. National Association of Consumer Advocates;
  - b. Maricopa County Bar Association.
- 21. My firm has litigated and settled dozens of class actions that have resulted in the creation of combined common funds and/or distribution to class member in the millions of dollars. The outstanding results mentioned above are a direct result of the diligence and tenacity shown by both myself and Kazerouni Law Group in successfully prosecuting complex class actions.
- 22. Therefore, my experience in litigating class actions and my years in practice are sufficient to justify my firm's appointment as class counsel in this case.

#### FACTS SUPPORTING CLASS CERTIFICATION

- 23. Defendant produced 188 letters to Plaintiff, which contained redactions of names and contact information in response to written discovery requests by Plaintiff, set one.
- 24. Each of the putative class members in this action was sent a collection letter with substantially similar language and all including the same language, which Plaintiff claims violates the FDCPA.
- 25. Plaintiff reviewed the Complaint in this case before it was filed, assisted Plaintiff's counsel with responding to discovery requests, sat for his own deposition, and helped prepare a declaration in support of this motion. Plaintiff has spent hours fulfilling his class representative duties for this case.

26.

**EXHIBITS** 

27. Attached as Exhibit "1" is a true and correct copy of the initial letter dated April 26, 2019

sent by Defendant to Plaintiff, as produced in discovery by Defendant, bates stamped as

Rodriguez 001.

28. Attached as Exhibit "2" is a true and correct copy of Defendant's Responses to Plaintiff's

Discovery Requests to Defendant.

29. Attached as Exhibit "3" is a true and correct copy of the deposition transcript of

Defendant's 30(b)(6) representative, Tucker Morris.

I declare under penalty of perjury in the State of Utah that the foregoing is true and

correct. Executed on July 16, 2020 in Phoenix, AZ.

By: <u>/s/ Ryan McBride</u>
Ryan McBride, Esq.